

GEORGE CRISAN

AUGUST 20 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1454]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 1454) for the relief of George Crisan, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to George Crisan. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill was born on July 8, 1907, in Rumania and claims to be stateless. He last entered the United States on September 17, 1949, as a student to attend the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y. He has been a regularly enrolled ministerial student at the divinity school since 1949 and plans to continue in his studies there. Administrative relief under the Displaced Persons Act is not available to him inasmuch as he entered the United States subsequent to April 30, 1949.

A letter dated May 31, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case, reads as follows:

MAY 31, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 1454) for the relief of George Crisan, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of George Crisan as of September 17, 1949, upon the payment by him of the required visa fee and head taxes. Section 2 of the bill would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Mr. Crisan, who was last a citizen of Rumania and now claims to be stateless, was born on July 8, 1907, in Tisa Arad, Rumania. He entered the United States at the port of New York on September 17, 1949, when he was admitted until April 30, 1950, as a student under section 4 (e) of the Immigration Act of 1924. In lieu of a Rumanian passport, he submitted a certificate of identity, issued by the prefecture of police, Paris, France. On March 20, 1950, he applied for a 12 months' extension of his temporary admission to continue his studies at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. His application was denied, however, since he was unable to obtain a renewal of the French certificate of identity on which he had traveled. A warrant of arrest in deportation proceedings was issued against him on October 2, 1950, on the ground that he was a student who had remained in the United States for a longer time than permitted under the immigration laws.

At the time of the alien's arrival in the United States, he was destined to the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School at Rochester, N. Y. The registrar of that school stated that Mr. Crisan had been a regularly enrolled ministerial student at the divinity school since September 27, 1949, and that he plans to continue his studies there until 1952; that he lives in the school dormitory, the expenses of his room and tuition being defrayed by a scholarship; and that he had worked in the school library during the summer vacation at 65 cents an hour for 35 hours a week.

Mr. Crisan stated that he has never been married and is the eldest of five brothers and a sister, children of George Crisan and Elizabeth Roman, who now reside in Tisa, Rumania; that his father is presently the proprietor of a small flour mill in Rumania and was formerly active in the Rumanian Orthodox Church; that during his childhood, his father was converted to the Baptist faith and became a leader of the small Baptist community in his home town. The alien further stated he took his law degree at the University of Cluj in Rumania and practiced law there from 1933 until 1948, during which time he was active as a Baptist writer and evangelist and that he was a member of the National Peasant Party. He claims that he fled Rumania in September of 1948 and arrived in Paris 2 months later, traveling part of the way on foot; that after his arrival in Paris, he was employed as secretary to Dr. Roy F. Starmer, director of the Baptist World Alliance relief project; and that he left France to come to the United States to take advantage of the scholarship which had been obtained for him.

The quota for Rumania, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. While he claims that he is persona non grata in Rumania he is ineligible to apply for the adjustment of his immigration status under section 4 of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, as amended, since he did not enter the United States prior to April 30, 1949.

Whether, under the circumstances in this case, the bill should be enacted presents a question of legislative policy concerning which the Department of Justice prefers not to make any recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 1454), should be enacted.

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